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FARM TELEPHONES

March 25, 1957

Monthly Charges for Farm Phone Service
Continue to Advance

Payments by United States farmers for local telephone service in July 1956 averaged \$3.66 a month, or 6 percent more than a year earlier, according to an annual survey made by the Agricultural Estimates Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Total monthly charges for both local and long-distant service averaged \$5.45 compared with \$5.14 for July 1955. This increase was accompanied by continued and rapid improvement in the class of telephone service received by farmers.

Increases in average local farm telephone bills during the year ended in July 1956 occurred in all regions and in practically all States with increases being fairly consistent throughout the United States. As of July 1956, the highest bills for local telephone service were paid by farmers in the New England States, an average of \$4.60 per month, and in the Pacific and Mountain Regions where payments averaged \$4.27 and \$4.14 respectively. The lowest by far was \$2.99 per month in the West North Central Region where there are still a large number of farmer-owned lines. Much of the regional variation in cost is a reflection of the differences in type and quality of service provided to farmers.

Average Monthly Local Farm Telephone Bills,
By Regions, July, 1947 - 56 ^{1/}

Region	1947-49 Average	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New England	3.17	3.83	3.91	4.11	4.23	4.35	4.60
Middle Atlantic	2.76	3.24	3.32	3.39	3.39	3.50	3.73
E.N. Central	2.22	2.81	2.97	3.23	3.32	3.41	3.54
W.N. Central	1.81	2.41	2.59	2.71	2.75	2.86	2.99
S. Atlantic	2.58	3.22	3.48	3.61	3.75	3.86	4.07
E.S. Central	2.50	3.08	3.18	3.23	3.42	3.50	3.83
W.S. Central	2.02	2.63	2.95	3.25	3.46	3.64	3.88
Mountain	2.65	3.02	3.43	3.55	3.74	3.91	4.14
Pacific	3.08	3.64	3.82	4.00	3.93	4.15	4.27
United States	2.29	2.87	3.06	3.24	3.33	3.46	3.66

^{1/} The survey made in July and August requested data based on the last bill. This was generally a bill for a period ending in late June, July, or early August.

On July 1, 1956, about 55 percent of the farmers with telephone service had dial phones, 18 percent had battery telephones, and 27 percent had magneto or crank telephones. This indicates a sharp increase over the last three years in number of dial phones on farms and a nearly corresponding decline in number of magneto (crank-type) phones. The number of battery telephones on farms has

declined only slightly. In July 1955, about 51 percent of the farm phones were of the dial type while in July 1954, 45 percent were dial. In 1954 an estimated 20 percent of the farmers with telephones had battery service and 35 percent had magneto service. Practically all of the new telephones being installed on farms (percent of farms with telephones ~~has~~ increased from 38 in 1950 to 52 in 1956) are dial and many exchanges and systems have been rebuilt with dial equipment, new poles, and lines.

Type of Telephone Service on Farms,
By Regions, July 1956

Region	Dial service	Battery service	Magneto : crank type : service :	Private : line :	2 to 4 : parties : on line :	5 to 8 : parties : on line :	9 or more : parties : on line :
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. Eng.	76	13	11	10	42	38	10
M. Atl.	61	25	14	7	20	51	22
E.N.Cent.	51	16	33	2	14	46	38
W.N.Cent.	35	13	52	2	12	45	40
S. Atl.	69	16	15	5	31	47	17
E.S.Cent.	65	25	10	4	32	59	5
W.S.Cent.	54	25	21	5	28	57	10
Mount.	57	30	13	5	24	46	25
Pacific	83	11	6	9	34	35	22
U. S.	55	18	27	4	22	48	26

